

## Top Story 1

# India's economy grew 66% in last decade: PM Modi at post-Budget webinar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's economy grew 66% over the last decade, citing a February report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Speaking at a post-budget webinar on employment generation, Modi highlighted what he called "remarkable observations" from the IMF regarding India's economic performance. According to this report, between 2015 and 2025, in these 10 years, India's economy has recorded a 66 percent growth. India has now become a 3.8 trillion dollar economy," Modi said. "The day is not far when India will become a 5 trillion dollar economy."

The PM emphasised the importance of implementing budget announcements, noting his government has moved away from traditional approaches to budget management.

## Top Story 2

# India's Services Sector Grows Faster In February Amid Rising Demand

The international bank, India Services PMI rose to 59.0 in February, up from January's 26-month low of 56.5, indicating a sharp expansion in business activity. India's services sector expanded at a stronger pace in February, driven by rising domestic and international demand, leading to increased new orders, higher employment, and robust business activity. However, while cost pressures persisted, inflation rates eased to a four-month low, according to HSBC India Services PMI. This growth was well above the long-run average, supported by higher productivity, strong demand, and an increase in new business orders. New orders in February grew at a faster pace as compared to January, with improved international demand. Service providers reported stronger exports from clients across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East, meeting the rising demand and easing capacity pressures.

## **Finance: -**

### **India, Qatar sign MoU for economic, financial cooperation**

India and Qatar have signed an agreement to promote and develop mutual collaboration in public-private partnership framework and investment, use of financing tools, as well as economic policies, the finance ministry said recently. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on financial and economic cooperation was signed between the two countries on February 18 during the visit of Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to India. "The MoU aims to promote and develop mutual collaboration in the areas of economic policies, use of financing tools, public-private partnership framework and investment. The MoU is expected to explore new and emerging sectors and avenues for investments in both countries," the ministry said in a statement.

## **Banking: -**

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## **Investment: -**

### **World sees India as trusted partner, industry must take advantage: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the Indian industry to take "big steps" for taking advantage of global opportunities at a time when the world is looking at India as a trusted partner, which can produce quality goods. Addressing a post-Budget webinar on Regulatory, Investment and Ease of Doing Business Reforms, PM Modi also said that amid supply-chain disruptions caused by economic uncertainties globally, the world today needs a trusted partner which can produce high-quality products and have a reliable supply chain. "Our country is capable of doing this, all of you (industry) are capable, this is a great opportunity for us. I want that our industry should not look at these expectations of the world as a mere spectator. We cannot remain spectators, you will have to look for your role in this, you will have to seek opportunities for yourself," PM Modi told the industry players.

## Economy :-

### India-US trade deal long overdue; it will boost GDP of both nations

As commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his US counterpart Howard Lutnick begun talks to strike an early bilateral trade deal, US-India Business Council (USIBC) of the US Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday said that non-tariff barriers and red tape should be “dismantled with haste” as it slows market access. USIBC President Atul Keshap said that meaningful trade facilitation through a bilateral trade deal is long overdue, and would be instrumental in boosting the gross domestic product (GDP) of both countries. The pact could also provide full and open market access. Goyal and Lutnick held their first meeting in Washington recently.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	85.609	0.131	NIFTY 50	23,598.50	-46.4
EURINR	89	0.119	BSE Sensex	78,039.81	-208.32
GBPINR	107.459	0.168			
JPYINR	0.5481	0.0032			